

# CITY SOURCE



Your source for City news and information



## *Celebrating 50 years of transit*

Columbia's bus system has seen a lot of changes in the last 50 years. The buses are different. The routes, schedules and even the name of the transit system are not the same. As Columbia continues to grow, the City is busy building plans for another 50 sustainable years.

**THE FUN PART:** Join us downtown at the Wabash Station (126 N. Tenth) at 1:30 p.m. on August 21<sup>st</sup> for exciting giveaways and announcements about the future of public transit in Columbia.

Then look forward to **FREE rides on all COMO Connect fixed bus routes from August 21—September 30** < < as well as **50 customer appreciation events all month long at various bus stops around town.**



You can also share your transit memories from any time over the last 50 years in Columbia and you'll be entered to win free bus rides for a year. Email your stories or photos to [COMOconnect@GoColumbiaMO.com](mailto:COMOconnect@GoColumbiaMO.com) or share on Facebook or Twitter ([#MyBusMemories](https://twitter.com/MyBusMemories)).

## Bus shelter funding

The Community Development Commission is recommending the City Council allocate \$100,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for site improvements and new bus shelter designs for five shelters in the city.

Shelter locations were chosen based upon user and other data, a public input meeting and a community-wide vote in February and March. Expected to be built in 2016, the shelters will use the winning design from a student competition held by the University of Missouri Architectural Studies program. Design oversight was provided by COMO Connect staff, bus riders, the city's Transportation Advisory Commission and professional architect and MU professor Michael Goldschmidt. The new shelters will be ADA-compliant and incorporate user features such as LED lighting.

### Locations include:

- Two shelters on Broadway (north and south side) east of Garth Avenue to accommodate users of the Columbia Public Library and nearby medical offices
- Garth and Worley near Oak Towers
- Vandiver Government Center
- South Providence Road near the University of Missouri South Providence Medical Park



## Youth ride FREE on COMO Connect

How will your kids get to and from school? Consider COMO Connect, Columbia's public transit system. Students 18 and under with a valid student ID ride for FREE any time and on any route. COMO Connect city bus routes run to all four Columbia public high schools from 6:25 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., so students have flexible options for getting to school and back home safely. Download the free COMO Connect app for real-time bus tracking. Visit [COMOconnect.org](http://COMOconnect.org) for more information.



# As Promised

**1,080 feet of new sanitary sewer lines - Cliff Drive**

Crews continue to work on the Cliff Drive and University Avenue sewer project. When completed, the project will serve eight parcels of land. After property owners submitted a petition for the formation of a sewer district in 2009, the City Council directed staff to move forward with the design of the project. Approximately 1,080 linear feet of new sanitary sewer main will improve service to customers in the area.

The project cost is estimated at \$336,000 (including design and construction costs) and is funded through voter-approved 2008 and 2013 Sewer Utility Revenue bonds.

## Street talk

While temperatures have been slightly below average this summer, the number of days on which rain has fallen has created some issues for our street maintenance crews and our contractors.

Daily rainfall (even if it's just a few tenths of an inch), the timing of rain, and the location of the rain shower can have a significant impact on when or if crews can perform scheduled maintenance operations.

The City of Columbia's staff will continue to work hard on completing the goal of sealing 23 miles of roads and five miles of mill and overlay road projects. The weather will play a big role in accomplishing these projects.

But all is not lost ... any projects which we cannot complete due to weather this construction season will be moved to the 2016 project list.



## Public rights-of-way and easements 101: *understanding the difference*

Public rights-of-way and easements allow the city and other utilities room to construct, operate and maintain utilities such as transmission lines, water lines and other necessities. This access enables the city to better provide the services you need and keep you safe should anything ever go wrong. To better understand these parcels of land, let's go over the basics.

**What is a public right-of-way?** A public right-of-way is a physical piece of land adjacent to your property that is owned by the city or other public entity and can be used for various public purposes.

### **What are the types of public rights-of-way?**

There are many types of public rights-of-way. Some common examples you may encounter include:

- The grass between a street curb and the sidewalk.
- A public access road through otherwise land-locked private property.
- The area between property lines.

**What is an easement?** An easement is a lasting agreement for one party to utilize a piece of land owned by another other party for a specific purpose. Many easements are already established, but sometimes the city or other utilities will acquire additional easements in order to carry out different projects and services. However, the use of the land is limited, and the original property owner retains legal title of the land.

**What are types of easements?** There are a variety of different types of easements. Some common examples you may encounter include:

- An extended path or driveway that crosses through another person's property.
- Access to a private road through another person's property.
- Access for maintaining and servicing a variety of utilities including transmission lines, sewer lines, gas lines and telecommunications lines.

**Building electric transmission lines:** In 2015, groundwork began on the Columbia Electric Transmission Line project to install new transmission lines in southern Columbia. Columbia Water & Light will assess the placement of new transmission poles using easements and rights-of-way. This updated system will not only meet federal guidelines but also will appropriately serve the community's growing electrical needs. Visit [PoweringColumbia.com](http://PoweringColumbia.com) for more information.

## Summer utility savings

Use these air conditioning efficiency tips to save on your bills and be more comfortable at home this summer.



- Set thermostat at 78 degrees or as high as possible while maintaining reasonable comfort level while you're home.
- Change the air conditioning/furnace filter at least every three months.
- For windows that receive direct sunlight, keep shades closed during the day.
- Avoid heating up the kitchen during the hottest part of the day. Grill outside, use the microwave or prepare a cool meal.
- Use heat producing appliances (dryers, dishwashers, etc.) during the late evening or early morning.
- Make sure all storm windows and fireplace chimney dampers are closed.
- Don't block air conditioner or air return vents with furniture, rugs or curtains.
- Remove weeds, grass, bushes, and other obstructions from around the outside condensing unit.
- Schedule a tune-up for your cooling system by a qualified heating and cooling contractor.

## Columbia Youth Teaching Efficiency

*Breezes infiltrate  
Air leaks steal cash and comfort  
Abolish the thieves*

By Sami Fierke, 7th Grade  
winner of Columbia Youth  
Teaching Efficiency contest  
(haiku category)

## Find your savings\$!

Sign up for an energy assessment and learn how to bring your home up to Energy Star standards. Columbia Water & Light will help finance energy efficiency upgrades for electric customers with rebates and low-interest loans. A typical home can benefit from hundreds of dollars in annual energy savings and be more comfortable.

[comoenergychallenge.com](http://comoenergychallenge.com)  
Brought to you by the CoMo  
Energy Challenge. Competing  
for \$5 million and change.



Recently, the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services began a three-year initiative to work with county partners to accelerate progress towards a healthy weight and lifestyle for all. Through a program called Boone County Fit-tastic, over 20 community partners have been trained in the 1,2,3,4,5, Fit-tastic effort.

- Our long term goals include: increasing the proportion of children at a healthy weight, increasing the proportion of residents engaged in healthy eating and active living, and increasing policy and environmental changes to support healthy eating and active living.
- For more information check out the website [fittastic.org](http://fittastic.org) or contact Maureen Coy at 573-874-7559.

## Expanding plastic recycling

### High-Density Polyethylene

Columbia Public Works now accepts #1 through #7 plastic containers in our recycling stream. You can now place more plastics in your blue bag for curbside pickup or in the bins at the drop off locations across town.



This month, we'll focus on #2 plastic containers. Common examples of #2 plastic containers include milk jugs, juice bottles, bleach, detergent and household cleaner bottles, shampoo bottles, and butter and yogurt tubs.

#2 plastics are commonly recycled into pens, recycling containers, picnic tables, benches, fencing material and new detergent bottles.

## Utility payments: avoid disconnection

During hot weather, it is especially important to keep current with your utility bills. Per city ordinance found in Chapter 27-21 (h), the City of Columbia may shut off delinquent accounts when the temperature is above 32 degrees Fahrenheit and below 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Disconnections are based on actual temperatures, not forecasts, so when the actual temperature is below 90 degrees, services may be shut off. If your account is past due, PLEASE call 573-874-7380 or visit the Utility Customer Service office at 701 E. Broadway. If your account is eligible for a payment agreement, it can easily be accomplished.



## Lang Award Winner—Genie Rogers



Genie Rogers is the recipient of the seventh annual Howard B. Lang, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the City of Columbia. Ms. Rogers has spent years volunteering for the benefit of Columbia citizens, most pointedly those helped through the City of Columbia Housing

Authority (CHA). Genie was nominated for the award by Phil Steinhaus, CHA CEO. Steinhaus and Mary Anne McCollum, former Columbia mayor, were both impressed by Genie's volunteer initiative, impact and service tenure.

The Lang Award is given in memory of Howard B. Lang, Jr., who served as Columbia's mayor from 1953-1957, and recognizes contemporary persons who exemplify volunteerism.

Helping those less fortunate in our community is the theme of Genie's volunteerism through City of Columbia programs and services. She was on the board of the Boone County Community Services Advisory Commission from 1984-1996. Genie joined the Columbia Housing Authority Board of Commissioners in 1990, where she currently serves as Chairperson.

Genie Rogers has sought to make decisions based on effective stewardship of public and private dollars. Her fiscal responsibility, coupled with compassionate dedication to helping lower-income persons in our community, has resulted in a better life for many in Columbia. Her leadership has contributed to higher family self-sufficiency, more independent living by those needing certain services, and housing assistance through the Housing Authority.

## Historic walking tours this fall

### *Tour Columbia's History!*

The public is invited to meet up with the Historic Preservation Commission for FREE walking tours of historic properties and places this fall. Guides will lead participants on 90 minute themed walks. Topics will include the Vocabulary of Architecture, Historic Districts, Hotels and Theaters, and An Engineer's Guide to Brick Streets.

For information on tour dates and times, and on other events, follow the Historic Preservation Commission's blog via email or like their Facebook page: [comorevamp.wordpress.com](http://comorevamp.wordpress.com) and [facebook.com/ColumbiaHPC](https://www.facebook.com/ColumbiaHPC).

Additional information is also available by contacting the Community Development Department at 573-874-7239 or by e-mail at [planning@gocolumbia.com](mailto:planning@gocolumbia.com).

## What is the state of our city?

See the 2015 City of Columbia Progress Report at [GoColumbiaMo.com](http://GoColumbiaMo.com) (search "progress report").

Interested in the budget process? The City Manager's budget and draft Capital Improvement Project plan can be viewed on the city's website. Citizens have the opportunity to comment on the budget during City Council's public hearings held during August and September. The City's new fiscal year starts October 1, 2015.

## 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Festival & Craft Show

The Heritage Festival & Craft Show is returning to Nifong Park. The festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 19 and 20.

Visitors will experience living history by strolling through a replica Lewis & Clark outpost, cowboy and prospector camps, and a lost arts area with traditional artisans. In addition, entertainers on two stages will be performing both days.

The Heritage Festival is coordinated by Columbia Parks and Recreation and sponsored by the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, KFRU and KPLA 101.5.

Call 573-874-7460 for more information about the festival, or visit [GoColumbiaMo.com](http://GoColumbiaMo.com).

## Traffic Box Art at 9th & Cherry

The corner of Ninth and Cherry streets is now a little more festive. In May, artist Lisa Bartlett installed the latest piece of Traffic Box Art, making it the eighth traffic signal box to become a work of



art in downtown Columbia. Bartlett's whimsical design depicts different wild animals playing musical instruments. The artwork was printed on a vinyl wrap that was placed on the box with adhesive rather than using paint. The goal of the Traffic Box Art program is to decrease instances of graffiti while contributing to the uniqueness of the downtown streetscape.

## Proper disposal of pharmaceuticals

*Never dispose of medications in the toilet or a drain!*

The Columbia Police Department recently removed the prescription disposal bin from the lobby. There are new Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Natural Resources guidelines that prohibit the collection of unused medicines. Listed below are alternatives for disposal.

### Best Method

- Keep products in their original container. (Remove label or conceal information with a permanent marker).
- To make the drug unusable, add a small amount of water to a solid drug and recap the container. For liquids, add some absorbent material such as kitty litter, sawdust or flour.
- Place the container in another container or a heavy bag.
- Place item in the trash.

### Alternative Method

#### Household Hazardous Waste Facility

1313 Lakeview Drive

(near the power plant, off the Business Loop)

Open: first and third Saturdays of April through November from 8 a.m. to noon

### Needle disposal

Through the Red Box program, free sharps containers are available for residents to fill at home and return to Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services when full for proper disposal. Free sharps containers are available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at 1005 W. Worley.

### Why is proper disposal important?

People should not dispose of medications in the toilet or a drain because they might eventually end up in our groundwater or watersheds. Tests have been established that measure pharmaceuticals in our water supply but research on the effects of these drugs on humans is not available.

## Labor Day holiday

City offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day. The regular City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 8. Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made on Sept. 7 and will be delayed one day the remainder of the week. Contact the Solid Waste Division at 573-874-6291 if you have questions. COMO Connect buses will not operate, the landfill will be closed and parking meters will not be enforced Sept. 7.

### Park development completed at Jay Dix Station

Thanks to funding from the Park Sales Tax and a cooperative agreement between the City of Columbia and Boone County, a new park was developed at Jay Dix Station, 3725 S. Scott Blvd. The park features a train-themed playground, shelter, basketball court, practice fields, fitness stations and a mountain bike skills course. The park also serves as a trailhead for the MKT Trail.

## PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

### September

3	Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, Violet and the Undercurrents, 7 p.m., FREE
8	Pooch Plunge, Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center, 6:30-7:30 p.m., \$4 per dog, must pre-register
11	Movies in the Park: Captain America: The First Avenger (PG-13), Flat Branch Park, 8 p.m., \$2, FREE for kids 8 and under
16	Family Fun Fest: Creative Kids, Cosmo Park, 6-8 p.m., FREE
19-20	38th Annual Heritage Festival and Craft Show, Nifong Park, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., FREE



### Did you know?

The majority of Columbia citizens use our parks and trails! A 2015 citizen survey revealed that 92% of Columbia households have visited a City-owned park in the past year and 82% have used the trails.

## Code corner—unlicensed vehicles

Chapter 11 of the City of Columbia Code of Ordinances regulates dismantled, inoperable, junk-filled and unlicensed vehicles. Nuisance vehicles like these hurt a neighborhood and may encourage other code violations or criminal activity.

When a violation of a nuisance vehicle is identified, the property owner has 30 days to comply before the violation is abated or the case is referred to municipal court.

The Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) handles nuisance vehicle cases and other residential code enforcement issues. If you have an issue where ONS can help, please call 573-817-5050.



## August Volunteer of the Month — Amanda Lewis

Amanda Lewis fell in love with the Special Olympics after volunteering in high school when her school hosted the track and field events. Amanda brought her passion for working with Special Olympics to Columbia when she came here for college four years ago. Jody Cook, Recreation Specialist with Parks & Recreation, who has worked with Amanda says, "She is gifted at adjusting her approach to each athlete and helping him or her perform to the maximum capability. The fun Amanda brings to all she is involved in would be hard to duplicate. The athletes brighten up, putting more focus and effort in what they are doing when Amanda is around."



Amanda Lewis

Amanda often commits herself to volunteering four nights a week plus the weekend of Special Olympics. As a student with many responsibilities, Amanda's reliability, cheerful disposition and success amazes those she works with. Her compassion shines through and has allowed her to build relationships and keep volunteering.

"I've learned that you may not always have a visible impact when volunteering yet however small, you always make one," Amanda says. "The relationships I have formed and grown over the years have continued to be some of the most important to me."

To learn more about volunteering with the City, contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or visit the City's website.

Written by volunteer Abby Holman

## Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

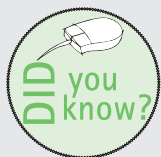
*Application deadline: Sept. 4 at 5 p.m.*

- City of Columbia New Century Fund, Inc. Board
- Convention and Visitors Advisory Board
- Personnel Advisory Board

*Application deadline: Oct. 9 at 5 p.m.*

- Board of Adjustment
- Citizens Police Review Board
- Columbia Community Development Commission
- Commission on Cultural Affairs
- Substance Abuse Advisory Commission

Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at [GoColumbiaMo.com](http://GoColumbiaMo.com) or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 573-874-7208 for information.



**Web did you know?** Utility customers who register their accounts online have 24-hour access to account information. You can pay bills, request transfers or termination of service, apply for automatic bill payment, and update contact information from the website. Since the website is available at all times, online access fits into the busiest of schedules. Register today at [GoColumbiaMo.com](http://GoColumbiaMo.com).

## Conserve water this summer

### *When should I water my lawn?*

- Water only if the soil needs it. Lawns are dry when footprints remain in the grass long after being made.
- Water in the early morning from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m., avoiding windy conditions.
- Water less frequently; this will help plants develop a deep, healthy root system.

### *How much should I water?*

- Lawns need no more than 1 ½ inches of water per week, including both irrigation and rainfall.
- Use a rain gauge found at a local hardware store to accurately measure your irrigation levels.
- If puddles or runoff start to develop, you have overwatered. Try setting a timer as a reminder to turn off the sprinkler system.

### *Easy Ways to Conserve Water Outdoors*

- Don't water your sidewalks and driveways! Adjust your sprinklers to cover only the lawn and plants.
- Mulch can help hold water and prevent weeds from growing.
- Leave grass a little longer to help prevent evaporation.
- Sweep leaves and grass cuttings rather than using a hose.



The City does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, disability, familial status, sexual orientation or gender identity.

City of Columbia  
701 E. Broadway • Columbia, MO 65201  
(573) 874-7111 • [GoColumbiaMo.com](http://GoColumbiaMo.com)

### MAYOR

Bob McDavid

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>First Ward</i>	Clyde Ruffin
<i>Second Ward</i>	Michael Trapp
<i>Third Ward</i>	Karl Skala
<i>Fourth Ward</i>	Ian Thomas
<i>Fifth Ward</i>	Laura Nauser
<i>Sixth Ward</i>	Betsy Peters
<i>City Manager</i>	Mike Matthes



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